

# BLACK SCIENCE

15

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
MORENO DINISIO



## THE STORY SO FAR...

Reunited with his family and the Anarchist League of Scientists, Grant McKay has jumped into a new parallel dimension, a technologically hyper-advanced society based on ancient Rome, but seemingly devoid of life. A plague is raging in the streets, a plague accidentally unleashed upon this world by its own version of Grant McKay and the Dimensionauts!

For once luck favors the team, as the Shaman they encountered in a parallel dimension of Frontier America brought with him an astounding piece of technology that is able to identify and eradicate the plague, not only from those infected, but from the world itself!

Shaken by his assistant Shawn's call to uphold their old ideals, to leave every world they visit better than when they found it, Grant rockets into the sky, the Pillar just minutes away from its next jump, to disperse the cure over the entire city and become the thing his son always imagined him to be...

A hero.

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera



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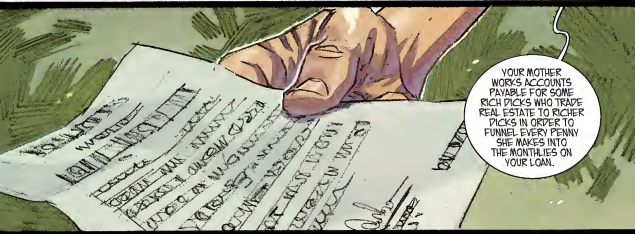
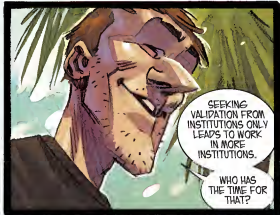
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INSTITUTIONAL  
LEARNING FACILITIES  
ARE TRAPS INTENDED TO  
CONTROL THE MIND,  
SUBDUCE THE SOUL, AND  
KEEP YOU IN DEBT UNTIL  
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO  
CAUSE TROUBLE.











"--FRITO LAY OR FREEDOM?"

COOK UP  
SOME ZESTY  
HABANERA EXTREME  
RANCH CONDUIT  
PORTOS OVER  
THIS FUCKING  
NIGHTMARE...

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
I'M EVEN  
SURPRISED AT  
MCKAY.



AND YOU,  
SHAWN, I  
HOPE YOU'RE  
HAPPY.

YOUR  
IMPASSIONED  
SANCTIMONY  
JUST GOT YOUR  
MENTOR KILLED.

OR DO YOU  
THINK HE'S  
GOT ANOTHER  
MIRACULOUS  
RESURRECTION  
IN HIM?

I REFUSE TO  
ENGAGE IN  
FINGER POINTING  
WITH YOU,  
KAPIR.

ESPECIALLY AS I AM  
FIXING THE DAMAGE  
YOU DID TO THE  
PILLAR.

BUT I WOULD  
APPRECIATE YOU  
SHUTTING UP  
WHILE I DO.

SECONDED.

IF IT DOESN'T WORK, IF GRANT  
DOESN'T COME BACK, I WON'T  
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS  
CHILDREN ANYMORE.

I PAID MY  
DUES.

MY  
PROMISE  
EXPIRED.



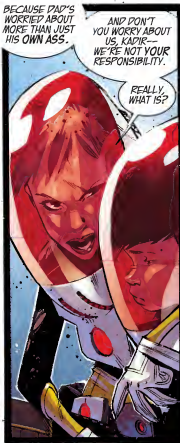
BUT...  
D-DAD'S  
COMING  
BACK  
RIGHT?

HE'S COMING  
BACK AFTER HAVING  
SAVED THIS PLACE  
AND DONE SOME  
GOOD, NATE.

BECAUSE DAD'S  
WORRIED ABOUT  
MORE THAN JUST  
HIS OWN ASS.

AND DON'T  
YOU WORRY ABOUT  
US, KADIR--  
WE'RE NOT YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY.

REALLY  
WHAT IS?



AND WE'VE  
ALL SEEN WHAT  
A GREAT JOB  
YOU DID OF  
PROTECTING  
US.



THAT'S  
GOOD,  
PIA.

YOU'RE  
ANGRY. YOU  
HAVE EVERY  
RIGHT.

BUT MAYBE  
YOU'RE NOT  
MAD AT ME--



--MAYBE  
YOU'RE UPSET  
YOUR FATHER HAS,  
**ONCE AGAIN,**  
PRIORITIZED OTHER  
PEOPLE OVER HIS  
OWN CHILDREN.





SIR, IF YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU SAW THEM ENTER THIS BUILDING WE SHOULD COMMAND THE LEGION.

IF WE CALL THE LEGION THEY WILL DEVASTATE THE BUILDING.



I DON'T WANT TO ALERT THE INTERLOPERS.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE CURS ARE DOING IN THERE.



SIR! I'M PICKING SOMETHING UP—ONE OF THE FANATICS HAS GONE AIRBORNE.



AIRBORNE IS THE LAST PLACE WE WANT ONE OF THESE BASTARDS.

YOU THREE—60.

TRACK AND KILL.



I'LL PUT DOWN THE OTHER HERETICS PERSONALLY.



C'MON!

WAKE UP!

HELLO?!

INTERDIMENSIONAL  
DIRECT DETECTION  
COMPLETE.

ALTERNATE  
ORIGINATOR  
DETECTED.

STATE YOUR  
DESIGNATION.

THE  
HELL...?

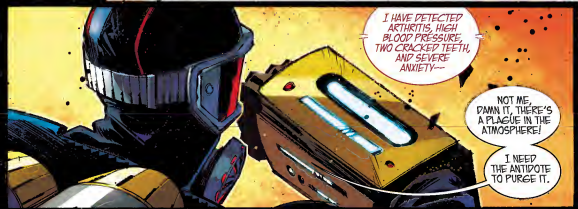


PROFILE  
SAVED  
FOR USER:  
THE HELL.

WHAT DO  
YOU REQUIRE,  
THE HELL?

I NEED  
A CURE.

FAST.



I HAVE DETECTED  
ARTHRITIS, HIGH  
BLOOD PRESSURE,  
TWO CRACKED TEETH,  
AND SEVERE  
ANXIETY--

NOT ME,  
DAMN IT, THERE'S  
A PLAGUE IN THE  
ATMOSPHERE!

I NEED  
THE ANTIDOTE TO  
PURGE IT.

UNDERSTOOD.  
DEPLOYING  
ANTI-VIRUS.

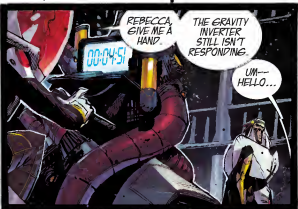
DISPENSING  
SELF-REPLICATING  
PLANETARY  
INOCULATION WILL  
REQUIRE A HIGHER  
ALTITUDE AND FIVE  
MORE MINUTES OF  
PUSTING.

GREAT.  
SURE...



"...I'VE GOT NOTHIN' BUT TIME."

DAMN IT!



REBECCA  
GIVE ME A  
HAND.

THE GRAVITY  
INVERTER  
STILL ISN'T  
RESPONDING.

UM—  
HELLO...



SHAMAN?

HWH.

I, UH...

I DIDN'T  
GET A  
CHANCE TO  
THANK YOU.



I'VE BEEN  
DIABETIC MY  
WHOLE LIFE, THE  
NEEDLES,  
THE SEIZURES...  
IT'S AWFUL.

IT'S NOT  
MY FAULT. IT'S  
NOT BECAUSE  
OF MY DIET OR  
ANYTHING.

I GOT THE  
GENETIC  
KIND.

AND—  
UM...



ARE YOU  
OKAY?

YOU LOOK  
SORT OF...  
UPSET.



I'VE SEEN  
WORLDS TWISTED  
BY THIS TOTEM AND  
THE TRESPASSES  
IT ENABLES, BUT  
NEVER ONE  
SO UTTERLY  
DESTROYED.

HOW  
MANY  
OTHERS ARE  
LIKE THIS?



AND  
HOW MANY  
PLAGUES  
DO WE  
CARRY?

MINDLESSLY  
DAMNING EACH  
WORLD WE VISIT.



OKAY--  
THERE--  
I THINK  
I GOT IT,  
SHAWN.

DAD SAYS  
WHENEVER  
ANYONE DOES  
SOMETHING FOR  
THE FIRST TIME  
THINGS GO  
WRONG.

THE FIRST  
TIME WE TRIED  
TO GO TO THE  
MOON PEOPLE  
DIED.



THINGS ARE  
GOING WRONG,  
BUT IT'S HOW  
WE LEARN HOW  
TO GET IT  
RIGHT.



THINK ABOUT  
WHAT COULD BE  
DONE WITH THE  
PILLAR IF  
WE CAN.



EVERY OTHER KID WITH DIABETES  
COULD BE CURED WITH THE SNAP  
OF A FINGER.

EVERY  
OTHER KID  
WITH ANY  
DISEASE.

WE JUST  
HAVE TO GET  
OUT OF HERE--  
WE HAVE TO  
GET HOME.



MY DAD'S  
GOING TO  
MAKE IT BACK  
AGAIN.

HE DOESN'T  
GIVE UP EASY.  
HE'S STUBBORN.

HE'LL  
MAKE SOME  
GOOD OF THIS.



NO.

I AM  
SORRY, YOUNG  
MAN, BUT I  
AM NOW SURE OF  
ONE THING...





...NOTHING GOOD WILL  
COME FROM THIS.

THEY'RE ALL ALIVE BECAUSE  
OF ME. BUT IT DOESN'T  
MATTER WHAT I DO.

THEY'RE JUST PREPROGRAMMED  
TO HATE ME AT THIS POINT.

THEY ALL KNEW IT WAS  
STUPID IRRESPONSIBLE  
FOR GRANT TO LEAVE  
HIS KIDS BEHIND.



DON'T MATTER.  
THEY ALWAYS  
DEFEND HIM.

CHARISMA  
ALWAYS  
TRUMPS  
HONESTY.

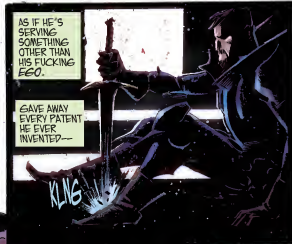
A HARSH  
REALITY  
OF HUMAN  
BEHAVIOR.



I JUST WANTED TO  
HEAR THEM TAKE MY  
SIDE FOR A CHANGE.



WHY THE FUCK  
DO I CARE?



AS IF HE'S  
SERVING  
SOMETHING  
OTHER THAN  
HIS FUCKING  
EGO.

GAVE AWAY  
EVERY PATENT  
HE EVER  
INVENTED—

KLING



—BUT HE ALWAYS MADE  
SURE EVERYONE KNEW IT  
CAME FROM HIM.

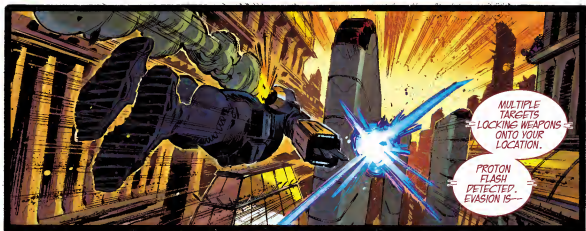
ON  
YOUR FEET,  
WRETCH.











MULTIPLE  
TARGETS  
LOCKING WEAPONS  
ONTO YOUR  
LOCATION.

PROTON  
FLASH  
DETECTED.  
EVASION IS—



UNDER  
CONTROL.

ALTITUDE IS  
MANDATORY FOR  
MISSION PARAMETER  
ACCOMPLISHMENT.



60T IT.

HOW  
ARE WE ON  
TIME?



DISPERSION  
HAS REACHED  
THIRTY SEVEN  
PERCENT.

PROVIDED THERE  
ARE NO FURTHER  
DISTRACTIONS,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
INCULCATION COMPLETE  
IN THREE MINUTES—



BE ADVISED, HIGH  
CONCENTRATIONS OF  
THERMAL PLASMA  
HAVE BEEN  
DETECTED.

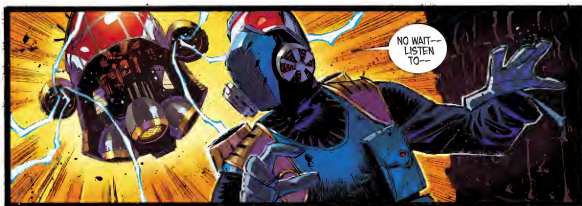
BREEEEEE

THAT'LL  
BE THE  
DISTRACTION  
YOU CALLED  
FOR.

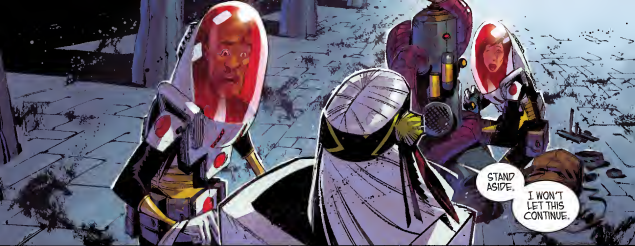












STAND  
ASIDE.

I WON'T  
LET THIS  
CONTINUE.



I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE  
UPSET, I UNDERSTAND  
WHY YOU THINK WE  
SHOULD DESTROY  
THIS.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
HURT YOU.



LISTEN!

WE'VE  
GOT IT  
FIXED!

ONCE WE  
GET EVERYONE  
HOME, I PROMISE  
WE'LL DESTROY IT.



NOTHING YOU  
INTEND COMES  
TO PASS.

I WILL NOT RISK  
BEING PARTY TO  
CAUSING MORE  
HARM TO ANY LIVING  
CREATURE.



AND WHAT  
ABOUT US?

DON'T WE  
GET THE SAME  
CONSIDERATION?

IT'S  
READY TO  
JUMP US  
HOME!

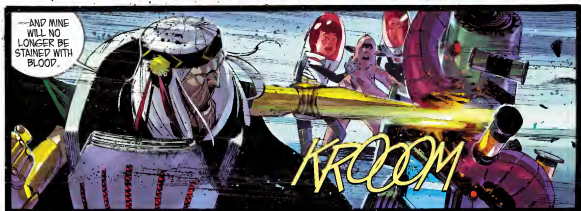


THAT CURSED  
TOTEM MUST  
NEVER JUMP  
AGAIN.





WE ARE  
KNOWN  
FOREVER BY  
THE TRACKS  
WE LEAVE—



—AND MINE  
WILL NO  
LONGER BE  
STAINED WITH  
BLOOD.

KROOM



SOMETIMES  
DOING THE  
RIGHT THING IS  
TERRIFYING.

BUT IT  
MUST BE  
DONE ALL  
THE SAME.



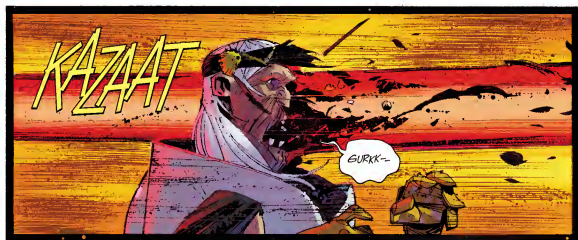
PLEASE!

I JUST  
WANT TO SEE  
MY MOTHER—  
I WANT TO  
GO HOME!



MY HEART  
TELLS ME ONLY  
EVIL WILL COME  
OF IT.

I'M SORRY,  
NATHAN.



TO BE CONTINUED.





**RR** - Yeah. It's not any easier for me to write this stuff than it is for you to read it.

After developing these characters for the past 15 issues I've grown fond of them. But I think it's important to stick to the original intention of the outline I wrote a few years ago before I fell in love with the cast. It's not haphazard and the results will move the story, and characters, forward, for better or for worse.

The first 16 issues comprise one large story and we're about to reach the climax. In order to do this right next issue is coming in at 30 pages. They are without a doubt some of the best pages I've seen Matteo produce in his career. I'm incredibly excited about the story finally reaching this important climax. By the time we get to issue 17 things are going to be very different.

As the intensity of the story has been building we've been receiving more and more mail. Keep sending it in and we will do an extra long letters page next issue to make sure we get to all of your thoughts.

Hey RR,

Thanks for the great read each month. This kinda book hits my science fiction sweet spot. The excellent Sci-Fi premise with lots of character melodrama makes me think of some classic '80s and '90s flicks. Add that to your pulpy tone and Scalera's beautifully dark artwork (the ink splatter creates a film grain-like effect that I love) and you have a space opera meets grindhouse epic made just for me.

My only criticism is that some parts are just too verbose. Scalera is a fantastic artist who knows how to compose a scene. Give his art some room to breathe and let it do some of the heavy lifting and the page will sing.

My question to you is what's your favorite John Carpenter movie? (Because I know you must be a fan.)

Best,  
Kyle Wallace

**RR** - For John Carpenter I have to go

with *Big Trouble in Little China*. It's the most unique and Jack Burton holds a warm place in my heart.

**RR**,

Thank you, thank you thank you! **BLACK SCIENCE** is one of the best comics I've ever read. Reminds me of a crazy night in Amsterdam... Totally badass! I was wondering if you guys were thinking about merchandising? I would love a logo tee! Maybe a big poster? Hurry up and take my money!

Foaming at the Mouth,  
Brandon K. Gartin

**RR** - Glad you're enjoying the comic book. We have t-shirt plans, just haven't had the time to get to make them. Matteo and I have some plans for a sculpture as well; we just need a free minute to put it all together.

How many onions are hiding in the pages of **BLACK SCIENCE**? Do you have an Easter egg quota for each arc?

Caitlin Fasse

**RR** - It's the fun of having the outline done so far in advance. We get to sneak in nice hints and interconnected bits. It's only started. Matteo and I figured out a new beat for issue 18 that made me smile for a day. The story is just getting started and as we build more we can be a bit more self-referential and hint at stuff that can also give loyal readers a smile.

Hey Rick!

My cousin, Nathan Gooden, and I just wanted to say thank you for signing our copies of **BLACK SCIENCE** and *Low* at Wondercon. We were the two maniacs who sprinted up to you, long after you'd stopped signing, and brashly shoved copies of our own (and first) publications at you. Which you handled admirably.

**RR** - Ha, I was once you guys. I remember my pal Harper and me swarming Evan Dorkin back in the day. I'm flattered you care and support the books.

**BLACK SCIENCE** #13 was a bombshell. Scratch that. A bombardment. Sad, beautiful, thrilling. The opening sequence conjured up a fever dream of my own childhood, my parents' divorce, those moments when intimacy transformed into claustrophobia. You're writing and Scalera's art are not only reaching new heights, as a pair, you're pushing the boundaries of the medium. You've generated an approachable, mature, flashy, rich world that evokes the Sci-Fi flicks and periodicals I loved as a kid, and injected into it the simple, chaotic story of an estranged family clawing its way back together. Or, at least, trying. It is, in a word, brilliant.

We're fans to the end.

But who's lurking under that mask, wielding the flamethrower? Nobody important... or...?

--Adrian F. Wassel

**RR** - Who is under the mask, indeed.

Hello! Just read #14 and I just wanted to say that this story is THE BEST!!! I am daily trying to convince my peers to read this book. Reminder is now one of my all time favorites! I really am in love with Scalera's art style. Each book has me wanting more!!! Thanks guys for bringing the most outstanding book to our minds! Long live the Dimensionauts!

Chris Rahhal Ardmore

**RR** - Thanks for the enthusiasm, Chris. We're all working hard to bring you the best we're capable of and it's nice you took the time to say so.

That's it for issue 15. If you think this issue was a shock, wait till issue 16 hits you. Holy shit, 30 full pages of Matteo and Moreno doing the work of their careers. The art is worth the price of admission alone. I think the conclusion to our first major story is a rewarding and hopefully unexpected payoff.

See you then.

- Rick

# NEXT ISSUE

## BLACK SCIENCE

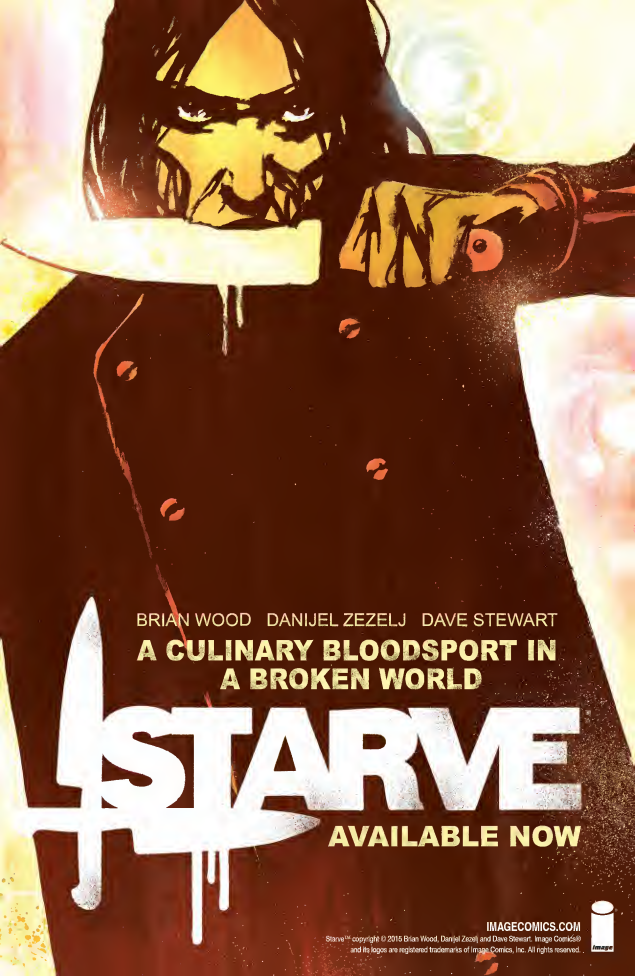
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RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
MORENO DINISIO



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A BROKEN WORLD**

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**Jason Shawn Alexander**  
(*Abe Sapien: The Drowning and The Escapists*)

She wasn't  
supposed to  
survive

They were  
supposed to  
stay dead

# empty zone

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JUNE





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**JUNE 2015**



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"Like if the cast of *Alien* settled *Deadwood*.  
Gorgeously executed stuff."

— **Jason Latour,**  
**Southern Bastards, Spider-Gwen**

"A book you inhale, though it will likely burn  
your lungs. It's a hard drink, but one that  
goes down oh-so-easy."

— **Newsarama**

"Crazy good and super gorgeous sci fi."

— **Jason Aaron,**  
**Southern Bastards, Thor**

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but love... The characters intrigue and the  
visuals astonish."

— **Multiversity Comics**

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-RHYMES WITH GEEK



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